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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Advisory Council Members and Wildlife Board

FROM: Randy Oplinger, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator, and  
Craig Walker, Assistant Fisheries Chief, Sport Fisheries Program

DATE: August 18, 2022

### **SUBJECT: 2023-2024 Fishing Regulation Proposals**

The UDWR is recommending the following regulation changes to the 2023 and 2024 Utah Fishing Guidebooks. All page numbers referenced in this memorandum refer to the location in the 2022 Utah Fishing Guidebook where a regulation change is proposed.

#### **Central Region:**

- Mona Res: Add "Limits for all species are double the statewide limits listed on page 7 of this guidebook"
- Yuba Res: Add "Limits for all species except tiger muskellunge are double the statewide limits listed on page 7 of this guidebook. Limit 1 tiger muskellunge over 40 inches. All tiger muskellunge under 40 inches must be immediately released."
- Strawberry Reservoir Tributaries: The DWR proposes removing the Sept. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of October closure from all the creeks listed under (b) with the exception of Trout Creek (page 39). The catch and release, artificial fly and lure, and May 15 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July stipulations would remain. The DWR proposes maintaining the May 15 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of July and the Sept. 1 through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday of October on Trout Creek. In addition, the DWR proposes maintaining the catch and release and artificial fly and lure stipulations on Trout Creek.

#### **Northeastern Region:**

- Big Sandwash Reservoir: Reduce the yellow perch limit to 10 fish. Increase the walleye limit to 20 walleye (no size restrictions on walleye at this water).
- Brown Duck Basin: Remove the existing seasonal closure (page 27).
- Jones Hole Creek: Strike language saying "Limit 2 trout, only 1 may be a brown trout over 15 inches". This would make the limit 4 trout, any species, any size. Keep the artificial flies and lures only restriction (page 33).

- Pelican Lake: Add “No limit for common carp. Anglers must not release any common carp they catch. All common carp must be immediately killed.” Also, add “Limit 50 bullhead” (page 36).
- Starvation Reservoir: Reduce limit on bluegill, green sunfish, black crappie, and yellow perch from 20 fish (a combined total) to 10 fish (a combined total; page 39).
- West Fork Duchesne River: DWR proposes shortening the stretch of the river where special regulations apply. The recommendation is to change the “lead in” text from “From the confluence with North Fork upstream to the headwaters, including Wolf Creek” to “From the confluence with Wolf Creek upstream to the headwaters, excluding Wolf Creek”. No changes are being proposed to the special regulation itself (page 41).
- Wolf Creek: Remove all special regulation wording (i.e., strike water from special regulations section; page 41).

#### **Northern Region:**

- Tony Grove Lake: Add limit of 8 trout from Aug. 15 - Dec. 31
- Stateline Reservoir: Add limit 4 trout or kokanee salmon, and no more than 1 may be a lake trout over 22 inches. All lake trout under 22 inches must be immediately released. Bonus limit of 4 kokanee salmon (total limit of no more than 8 trout if at least 4 are kokanee salmon).
- Causey Reservoir: Add limit 4 trout or kokanee salmon, and no more than 1 may be a lake trout over 22 inches. All lake trout under 22 inches must be immediately released.
- Lower Bear River: Add stretch from Cutler Reservoir to Great Salt Lake to the list of waters where dead yellow perch can be used as bait (Utah Administrative Rule R657-13-12 and page 12).
- Willard Pond: Add pond to the community fisheries list (page 28).
- Lost Creek Reservoir: Strike “CLOSED to fishing 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. “
- Uinta Mountains: The DWR proposes increasing the limit to 8 trout with a 4 brook trout bonus limit from August 15 through December 31 on Beaver Lake, Bridger Lake, Marsh Lake, Quarter Corner Lake, and Teapot Lake. The limits on these lakes would be the same 4 trout with 4 brook trout bonus limit that applies throughout the Uinta Mountains through the remainder of the year. Current limits would apply year round to other waters in the Uintas (page 40).

#### **Southeastern Region:**

- The DWR is recommending that Green River Golf Course Pond is removed from the list of community fisheries (page 28).

**Southern Region:**

- Navajo Lake: Change “Limit 4 splake, brook trout, or tiger trout (a combined total), only 1 may exceed 22 inches” to “Limit 4 trout or arctic grayling, only 1 may exceed 22 inches” (page 35).

**Statewide Recommendations Pertaining to Roundtail Chub:**

- The DWR proposes removing roundtail chub from the prohibited species list on page 17. This proposal also involves removing roundtail chub from the prohibited species lists within Utah Admin. Rules R657-13-13 and R657-14-8.
- The DWR also proposes the regulation changes identified in the table that is below.

<b>Water</b>	<b>Stretch</b>	<b>Proposed Regulation</b>
Escalante River	Pine Creek confluence to Lake Powell	Catch and release with artificial fly and lure restriction
McElmo Creek	Colorado state line to San Juan River confluence	Catch and release with artificial fly and lure restriction
Colorado River	Colorado state line to Dirty Devil River confluence	Limit 2 fish
Delores River	Colorado state line to Colorado River confluence	Limit 2 fish
Green River	Sand Wash Boat Launch to Colorado River confluence	Limit 2 fish
Green River	Colorado state line to Sand Wash Boat Launch	Catch and release
San Rafael River	Entire river	Limit 2 fish
White River	Colorado state line to Tribal land boundary	Limit 2 fish